

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 19, 2006

Speaker J. Dennis Hastert
H-232, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Majority Leader John Boehner
H-107, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Cc: Chairman Jerry Lewis
H-218, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. Leader:

Earlier this year, with your leadership and strong support, the House of Representatives passed the Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act (H.R. 4975), which included historic reforms to the practice of Congress earmarking federal resources for state and local purposes.

However, since a conference report has not yet been finalized, these earmark reforms have languished, and nearly all of the appropriations bills have now passed without any increased transparency in the spending process. As such, we believe it is time for the House to address the manner in which *it* does business and begin unilaterally implementing the terms of the earmark reform effort.

Specifically, H.R. 4975 requires that the Appropriations Committee provide a list of earmarks in each spending bill and accompany each project with the name of the requesting Member. In addition, the recently-passed Legislative Line Item Veto (H.R. 4890) included an expanded definition of what constitutes an earmark to include authorizing and revenue legislation, so that reform is truly broad-based. Taken in tandem, these two bills demonstrate that the House knows what must be done to curb the excesses of earmarking and overwhelmingly supports the effort.

Accordingly, the House should not wait for the completion of any lobbying reform conference report before reforming itself. In the absence of an outright change to the Rules of the House, we request that no spending or tax bill, including upcoming appropriations conference reports, be scheduled for House consideration if the bill does not list the included earmarks and their requesting Members.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and for all of your hard work to enact reforms this year that will make us better stewards of taxpayers' hard-earned money.

Yours respectfully,

Phil Perce

John Campbell

John

Bill Gutkewitz

Jill Miller

Virgie Good

Bob Bump

Joe Schwarz

John Lindner

Ann H. T. 2

Bob

Scott Garrett

John White

Bill King

Paul R. R.

Barbara

Barbara Cullen

Dan Tunt

Malcolm

Bob Buckley

Bill

W. Minnis

John

James D. D.

Steve King

Ron Paul

John Flynn

John H. Johnson

Frank Frank

Mark Sanchez

Jeff Sessions

Jeff Flake

Markwayne Mullins

T. J. Carter

Jim R. Hill

Marilyn Musgrave

Tim Wirth

Paul Ryan

Chris

Dana Rohrabacher

Paul Buntz

Wally Herger

Paul Gosar

Viggo Fox